

The Smallpox Vaccine:

Making The Decision



**A DISCUSSION FOR FIRST RESPONDERS
ON THE SMALLPOX VACCINE**

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INTRODUCTION

Smallpox Preparedness Program

Currently, smallpox disease is not occurring anywhere in the world. However, there is a concern that smallpox virus could be reintroduced intentionally into the world as an act of terrorism. In December 2002, President Bush initiated a national preparedness program to protect citizens against smallpox being used as a biological weapon.

In 1980, naturally occurring smallpox was declared eradicated following worldwide vaccination programs. However, there remains the possibility that terrorists could have stocks of smallpox virus, and could deliberately release this virus as part of a terrorist attack. In response, public health officials and medical providers are now taking precautions to be ready to deal with such an attack, if it were to take place.

Missouri is participating in this national preparedness program. Phase I took place in 2003, during which time public health agencies and hospitals established teams of public health and medical professionals who are prepared to respond in the event of a smallpox outbreak. These smallpox teams have been vaccinated and may be the first to investigate, evaluate, and treat initial suspected case(s) of smallpox and initiate measures to control the outbreak.

During Phase II, first responders are being offered the option to receive the smallpox vaccine now, so that they would be protected should they encounter a smallpox case as part of their normal job duties.

Participation is strictly voluntary.

In the event of a smallpox case, state and local authorities will notify anyone who may be exposed and provide vaccines for those individuals. If you are not vaccinated, but you are exposed, you may still have time to take action to protect yourself from the virus.

- ▶ Receiving smallpox vaccine before exposure to the virus will prevent most people from getting the disease. (The vaccine is about 95 percent effective).
- ▶ Receiving the vaccine within 3 days of exposure to smallpox will completely prevent the disease, or else make it much less severe, in the vast majority of persons.
- ▶ Vaccination 4 to 7 days after exposure likely offers some protection from disease or may modify the severity of the disease.

The first dose of smallpox vaccine protects people from getting smallpox for 3 to 5 years. Protection from severe illness and death can last 10 years or more. Previously receiving the vaccine as a child does not guarantee protection if exposed to smallpox now.

This booklet serves as a discussion guide to assist first responders who are considering the option of receiving the smallpox vaccine. It is important that you review this booklet carefully so you can make an informed decision whether to receive the vaccine, with an understanding of medical risks and potential impacts on your family, and/or employment.

Smallpox is a serious, contagious disease caused by variola virus, and marked by fever and an extensive skin rash. Death may occur in up to 30 percent of cases, and many survivors are left with permanent scars (especially on the face).

FIRST RESPONDERS: WEIGHING THE DECISION

The decision whether or not to participate in the Phase II smallpox vaccination program is serious, requiring time and consideration. Each person must carefully consider whether or not it is appropriate to receive the vaccine and discuss the decision with his or her family. One should also consider the likelihood of coming into contact with a person with smallpox while performing job duties, and also if there are any personal, medical, or family reasons why it may not be appropriate to receive the vaccine at this time.

As a first responder, you may or may not have a higher risk of exposure in the event of an outbreak based on your level of contact with the public.

Some examples of people who may be at higher risk include:

- ▶ Public health staff who may be asked to investigate a case or administer the vaccine to exposed persons.
- ▶ Hospital staff who work in emergency departments or may be asked to provide treatment or support services to exposed persons.
- ▶ Laboratory workers who work with cultures or animals infected with variola-like viruses (e.g. monkeypox, cowpox).
- ▶ Laboratory workers who investigate unknown substances.
- ▶ Investigators or detectives, especially those assigned to special investigation units.
- ▶ EMTs or paramedics who transport large numbers of patients.
- ▶ Hazardous materials response teams.

Some people who have lesser risk would include:

- ▶ Administrators.
- ▶ Dispatchers.
- ▶ Fire or crime prevention educators.
- ▶ Positions that have little physical contact with the general public.

Questions to Consider

The decision to receive the smallpox vaccine is important and one that you should discuss with your family. While there are many questions you should consider, some of the most important ones are:

- ▶ Am I likely to come in contact with someone with smallpox through my job?
- ▶ Do I have any medical conditions that would prevent me from getting the vaccine?
- ▶ Do any of my family members or other people I am in close contact with have medical conditions that would prevent them from receiving the vaccine?
- ▶ What are my employer's policies regarding the vaccine?
- ▶ Am I willing to have the vaccination site examined 6-8 days after the vaccination to make sure it "took"?
- ▶ Am I prepared to take care of the vaccination site for 3 weeks after the vaccination?

SMALLPOX – THE DISEASE

Smallpox is a serious disease that can kill up to 3 out of 10 people who get it.

Smallpox also causes:

- ▶ a severe rash, which can leave scars when healed.
- ▶ high fever.
- ▶ tiredness.
- ▶ severe headaches and backache.
- ▶ possible blindness.

Smallpox is caused by a virus called “variola,” which spreads from person to person. Usually, but not always, face-to-face contact lasting 3 or more hours is needed to spread smallpox from one person to another. Smallpox can also be spread through direct contact with infected body fluids or objects such as bedding or clothing that have smallpox virus on them.

Smallpox killed millions of people over the centuries. Smallpox vaccination was first developed in 1796. By the first half of the 20th century, smallpox vaccination had become widespread – particularly in Europe and the United States. As a result, the last outbreak of smallpox in the United States was in 1949. The world’s last case of naturally occurring smallpox was in 1977. Routine vaccination of the American public against smallpox ended in 1972. In 1980, naturally occurring smallpox was declared eradicated following worldwide vaccination programs.

Smallpox Symptoms

As a first responder, you may be among the first to encounter a possible smallpox case.

Smallpox symptoms begin with high fever, head and body aches, and sometimes vomiting. A rash follows that spreads and progresses to raised bumps and pus-filled blisters that crust, scab, and fall off after 3 to 4 weeks, leaving scars.

Following exposure, it takes from 7 to 17 days for symptoms of smallpox to appear (the average time is 12-14 days). During this period, the infected person feels fine and is not contagious. A person with smallpox is sometimes contagious with onset of fever, but he or she becomes most contagious with the onset of rash. The infected person is contagious until the last smallpox scab falls off (usually 3-4 weeks after rash onset).



Source: CDC/James Hicks

A Case of Smallpox

SMALLPOX VACCINE

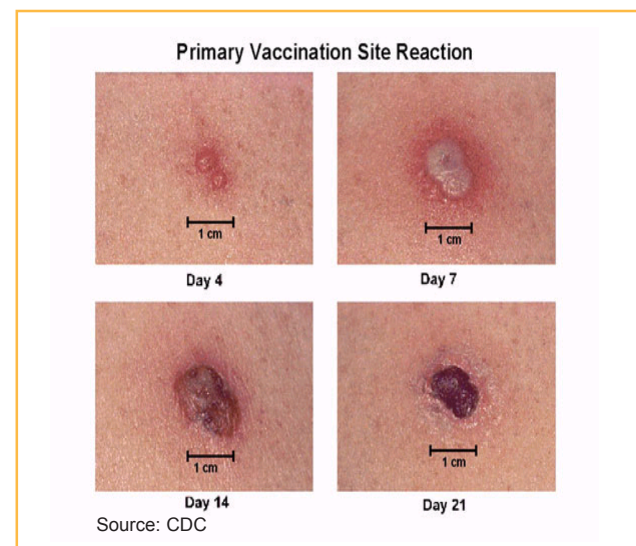
Smallpox vaccine is made from a virus called **vaccinia**, which is a “pox”-type virus that is related to the variola virus that causes smallpox. **The vaccine cannot cause smallpox.** Smallpox vaccine is the only way to prevent smallpox. It was successfully used to eradicate smallpox from the human population. Smallpox vaccine protects people from getting smallpox for 3 to 5 years. Protection from severe illness and/or death can last 10 years or more.

The vaccine is not a shot like other vaccines. A two-pronged needle used to administer the smallpox vaccine is pricked into the skin of the upper arm a number of times in a few seconds. The pricking is not deep, but will cause 1 or 2 small drops of blood to appear. The place on the skin where the vaccine is given is called the **“vaccination site.”** If a person has certain pre-existing medical conditions such as atopic dermatitis (often called eczema) or immune system problems, receiving smallpox vaccine can result in very serious adverse reactions.



A blister should form at the vaccination site a few days after the vaccine is given. This area will later become scabbed over, and after about 3 weeks the scab will fall off. You may experience temporary swelling, itching at the vaccination site, fatigue, mild fever, headache, or muscle aches. In fact, some people who receive the vaccine may feel sick enough to miss work. During this 3 week period, the dressing should be changed on a regular basis. You must take precautions to make sure that vaccinia, now living at the vaccination site, does not spread to other parts of your body or to other people during the healing period.

The smallpox vaccine is made from a living virus called **vaccinia**. Vaccinia virus is from the same family as smallpox virus, but less harmful. **The vaccine does not contain the smallpox virus and cannot give you smallpox.** For most people, the smallpox vaccine is safe and effective. But, people with certain health conditions are more likely to have serious reactions to the smallpox vaccine. These people should not be vaccinated and should not be in close contact with someone who has been vaccinated.



Normal Vaccine Reactions

- ▶ **Week 1:** A red, itchy bump will form at the “vaccination site” 3 or 4 days after vaccination. Most times, this spot is about the size of a dime. The bump becomes a blister. It will fill with pus and then start to drain. A healthcare provider should check your vaccination site 6 to 8 days after you get the vaccine to make sure the vaccination was successful.
- ▶ **Week 2:** The blister will dry up and a scab will form.
- ▶ **Week 3:** The scab will fall off and leave a small scar.

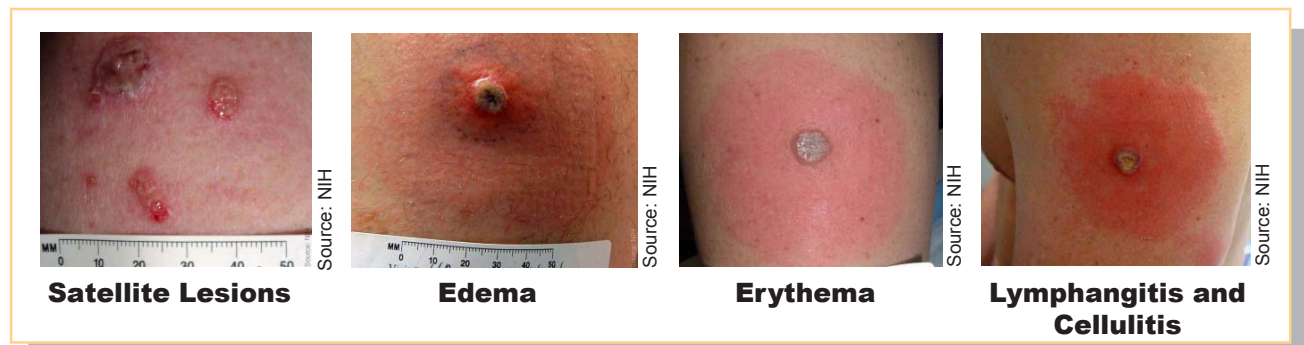
The lymph nodes under your arm may swell and be sore. The vaccination site may itch. You may also feel tired, have a mild fever, headache, or muscle aches. You may not get a blister if the vaccine did not work properly or if you are already immune to smallpox. In this case, you will need to get the vaccine again. If you still do not get a blister after getting the vaccine a second or third time, a healthcare provider will tell you if you are, or are not, considered immune.

Photos of normal reactions to the smallpox vaccine



Normal Variations

Some individuals may experience minor adverse reactions to the smallpox vaccine.



HEALTH CONSIDERATIONS

Many people should not receive the vaccine due to existing health conditions, including pregnancy, eczema, weakened immune system (cancer, lupus, HIV, etc.), heart problems, or allergies to certain drugs. People with these health conditions are more likely to have serious reactions to the smallpox vaccine or experience other health complications. In addition, if you live with someone who has skin problems or immune system problems listed below or is pregnant or may become pregnant within 4 weeks of your vaccination, you should not receive the vaccine because of the possibility of transmitting vaccine virus to this at-risk individual.

You should **NOT** get the smallpox vaccine if you:

1. Have Skin Problems

People with skin problems are at risk of developing rashes which can be severe if they get the smallpox vaccine.

- Anyone who has atopic dermatitis (often called eczema) or had it in the past should not get the smallpox vaccine. If you think you had it, even as a child, or if you think a close contact has had it, you should not have the vaccine.
- Anyone who has Darier's disease (a skin disease that usually begins in childhood) should not get the smallpox vaccine.
- Anyone who has a skin problem that has made many breaks in the skin (such as an allergic rash, bad burn, impetigo, psoriasis, pityriasis rosea, poison oak, poison ivy, chickenpox, shingles, herpes, or very bad acne) should not get the vaccine now. They should wait until the skin heals before getting the smallpox vaccine.

2. Have Immune System Problems

With a weakened immune system should **NOT** get the smallpox vaccine, including anyone who:

- Has HIV/AIDS, primary immune deficiency disorders, humoral (antibody) immunity problems (such as agammaglobulinemia or lack of normal antibodies), or other diseases that affect the immune system.
- Has lupus or another severe autoimmune disease that weakens the immune system.
- Has leukemia, lymphoma, or most other cancers.
- Is taking cancer treatment with radiation or drugs, or has taken such treatment in the past 3 months.
- Is taking, or has recently taken, drugs that affect the immune system. These include high dose steroids (for 2 weeks or longer within the past month), some drugs for autoimmune disease, or drugs taken for an organ or bone marrow transplant.

HEALTH CONSIDERATIONS (CONT.)

3. Have Heart Problems

Smallpox vaccination may cause heart inflammation that can be mild to life-threatening. It is not known who is at risk for this problem. As a precaution, anyone who has been told by a doctor that they have a heart condition should **NOT** get the smallpox vaccine, even if they feel well. This includes anyone who has:

- Known heart disease, such as past heart attack or angina (chest pain caused by lack of blood to the heart).
- Congestive heart failure.
- Cardiomyopathy (heart muscle becomes enlarged and does not work as well as it should).
- Stroke or transient ischemic attack (a “mini-stroke” that causes stroke-like symptoms, but no lasting damage).
- Chest pain or shortness of breath with activity (such as walking up stairs).
- Other heart conditions that require the care of a doctor.

In addition, anyone with **3 or more** of the following risk factors should **NOT** get the smallpox vaccine:

- Have been told by a doctor that you have high blood pressure.
- Have been told by a doctor that you have high blood cholesterol.
- Have been told by a doctor that you have diabetes or high blood sugar.
- Have a first degree relative (for example, mother, father, sister or brother) who had a heart condition before the age of 50.
- Smoke cigarettes now.

4. Are Pregnant or Breastfeeding

Babies of mothers who have been vaccinated while pregnant or during the month before they become pregnant can get a very rare but serious infection from the vaccine.

- Do NOT get the smallpox vaccine if you are pregnant, think there is a chance you are pregnant, or think you might become pregnant within 4 weeks after vaccination.
- Take steps to prevent pregnancy during the month before and the month after vaccination. Do not have sex, or use effective birth control every time you have sex.
- Do NOT get the smallpox vaccine if you are breastfeeding. It is not known if smallpox vaccine virus or antibodies can be passed to babies through breast milk.

5. Live with or have close physical contact with anyone (such as a spouse or child) who:

- Has any of the skin problems listed above.
- Has any of the immune system problems listed above.
- Is pregnant or may become pregnant within 4 weeks of your vaccination.

The smallpox vaccine may pose a similar risk to them. They will have a heightened risk of having severe medical problems if the vaccine virus spreads from you to them.

6. Other Reasons

Do NOT Get the Smallpox Vaccine if You:

- Are very allergic to polymyxin B, streptomycin, chlortetracycline, neomycin, or latex.
- Had a bad reaction the last time you got the smallpox vaccine.
- Are using steroid drops in your eyes.
- Are moderately or severely ill the day of your vaccination appointment. Wait until you are better before getting the smallpox vaccine.

Screening Before Vaccination

The local public health agencies that are providing the smallpox vaccinations will carefully review any risk factors with you on the day of vaccination. This screening will help you determine if it is appropriate for you to receive the vaccine at that time.

Smallpox vaccine is not routinely recommended for anyone under 18 years of age or for older people. People age 65 or older who do not have any of the conditions listed above should talk to their health care provider before getting the vaccine.

In the Event of a Smallpox Outbreak

If there IS a smallpox outbreak, these health restrictions may not apply. The probability of serious complications or death from smallpox is higher than the probability of severe reactions to the vaccine. Public health experts will say who should get the vaccine at that time.

LIFESTYLE CONSIDERATIONS

Receiving the smallpox vaccine may have an impact on your lifestyle for at least 3 weeks following vaccination, as the vaccination site heals. It is normal and expected that you will have a reaction to the vaccine. In addition to the reaction at the vaccination site, you may experience symptoms such as mild fever, fatigue, or muscle aches. Some people will feel bad enough to miss work. In some cases, the reaction can be severe, including full body rashes and/or other significant symptoms.

Care of the Vaccination Site

The virus in the vaccine is alive. It can be spread from the vaccination site to other parts of your body or to other people through close physical contact. This can happen until the scab falls off – about 3 weeks after vaccination. Past studies indicate the vaccine virus was spread from vaccinated people to others about 2 to 6 times out of every 100,000 people vaccinated for the first time (this usually happened between people who lived together).

To help prevent spread of the virus, you will need to:

- ▶ Cover the area with a bandage, and change the bandage at least every 3 days. You may need to change it more frequently. Ideally, you should have the bandage changed by a health care professional (e.g., nurse, EMT). If a health care professional is not available, you should change your own bandage, utilizing appropriate precautions. **Do not let someone else change your bandage unless he/she is a health care professional.**
- ▶ Try not to touch your vaccination site, and do not let others touch the site or items that have touched it such as bandages, clothes, sheets, or towels.
- ▶ Wash your hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand wash if you touch the site or if you touch bandages, clothes, sheets, or towels that have touched the site.
- ▶ Don't touch your eyes, any part of your body, or another person after changing the bandage or touching the vaccination site until you have washed your hands.

If you receive the smallpox vaccine, you will receive detailed after-care instructions. These instructions must be followed carefully to avoid spreading the vaccinia virus to others.



Source: CDC/Kelly Thomas



- ▶ Keep the vaccination site dry, and cover the site with a waterproof bandage while bathing.
- ▶ Don't scratch or put ointment on the vaccination site.
- ▶ Wear a shirt that covers the vaccination site and bandage. This helps protect those you have close contact with such as young children or the person you share a bed with.
- ▶ Don't share towels.
- ▶ Do your own laundry. Use a separate laundry hamper for clothes, towels, sheets, and other items that may come into contact with your vaccination site or pus from the site. Machine wash items that have touched the vaccination site in hot water with detergent and/or bleach.
- ▶ Be careful exercising or performing other strenuous activities. If the bandage becomes loose, damaged, or wet (sweaty), change it as soon as possible.

You **MUST** follow the above guidelines carefully.

Work Considerations

If you get the vaccine and experience a reaction that requires you to be away from work, you may need to use sick or vacation time to cover the missed work. Some employers may require their vaccinated employees to take time off work. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), which provides national recommendations on vaccine use, does not think this is necessary. However, you should discuss the specific policies and duty limitations with your employer **before** deciding to receive the vaccine.

Family Considerations

If any member of your household or other persons with whom you have close physical contact have any of the skin or immune system problems described previously or are pregnant or may become pregnant within 4 weeks of your vaccination, they will be at heightened risk of having severe medical problems if the vaccine virus spreads from you to them. Again, do **not** get the smallpox vaccine in these circumstances.

Financial Considerations

In the rare event that you have a serious reaction to the smallpox vaccine, a federal program has been created to help pay for related costs of medical care and lost wages. This program was created to compensate certain people, such as health care workers and emergency responders, injured by the vaccine. It will also cover certain people injured as the direct result of exposure to vaccinia through contact with certain people who received the smallpox vaccine (or with the contacts of such vaccine recipients). The program covers related costs of medical care and lost wages (usually starting after the first 5 days of missed work) after other available coverage, such as workers' compensation or health insurance, has been used.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has more information about this program, including how to request benefits and/or compensation. For more information contact the Smallpox Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, Office of Special Programs, **888-496-0338** or go to www.hrsa.gov/smallpoxinjury.

POTENTIAL RISKS AND SIDE EFFECTS

A vaccine, like any medicine, can cause serious problems. There is a very small risk of smallpox vaccine causing serious harm, or death. The following information is about known reactions to smallpox vaccine. There may be other unknown side effects.

People who did not get the vaccine can also have the side effects described below if they touch someone's vaccination site or items that have touched the site (like bandages, clothes, sheets, or towels). Following the instructions on how to care for the vaccination site can help prevent spread of the vaccine virus to others.

MILD TO MODERATE PROBLEMS	HOW OFTEN DID IT HAPPEN IN THE PAST?
Feel sick enough to miss work.	About 1 out of 10 to 20 people vaccinated.
Fever of over 100°F.	About 1 out of 10 people vaccinated.
Mild rash that gets better without medicine.	About 1 out of 12 people vaccinated.
Blisters on other parts of the body.	About 1 out of 10,000 people vaccinated.
MODERATE TO SEVERE PROBLEMS CALL OR VISIT A HEALTH CARE PROVIDER	HOW OFTEN DID IT HAPPEN IN THE PAST?
Eye infection from touching your eye if you have vaccine virus on your hand. This can lead to a loss of vision in the infected eye.	About 1 out of 45,000 people vaccinated.
Rash on entire body which usually goes away without problems.	About 1 per 15,000 people vaccinated.
Inflamed heart (can be mild to life-threatening).	About 1 out of 10,000 people vaccinated for the first time.
SEVERE OR LIFE-THREATENING PROBLEMS GET TO A HEALTH CARE PROVIDER IMMEDIATELY	HOW OFTEN DID IT HAPPEN IN THE PAST?
Severe rash on people with eczema or atopic dermatitis, which can lead to scarring or death.	About 1 out of 26,000 people vaccinated.
Encephalitis (severe brain swelling), which can lead to permanent brain damage or death.	About 1 out of 83,000 people vaccinated.
Skin and tissue destruction starting at the vaccination site and spreading to the rest of the body, which can lead to scarring or death (usually happens in people with very weakened immune systems).	About 1 out of 667,000 people vaccinated.
Vaccinia virus infection in unborn child that can lead to premature delivery, skin rash with scarring, stillbirth, or death of the child after delivery.	Very rare, less than 50 cases have been reported throughout the world in the last 100 years.

Source: CDC

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

About Smallpox

What are the symptoms of smallpox?

Symptoms begin with high fever, head and body aches, and sometimes vomiting. A rash follows that spreads and progresses to raised bumps and pus-filled blisters that crust, scab, and fall off after about 3-4 weeks, leaving scars.

If someone is infected with the smallpox virus, how long does it take to show symptoms?

After exposure, it takes between 7 to 17 days for symptoms of smallpox to appear (the average time is 12-14 days). During this time, the infected person feels fine and is not contagious.

When does a person with smallpox become contagious to others?

A person with smallpox is sometimes contagious with onset of fever, but he or she becomes most contagious with the onset of rash. The infected person is contagious until the last smallpox scab falls off (usually 3-4 weeks after rash onset).

How is smallpox spread?

Smallpox normally spreads through contact with infected persons. Generally, direct and fairly prolonged face-to-face contact is required for spread to occur. Smallpox also can be spread through direct contact with infected body fluids or contaminated objects such as bedding or clothing. Rarely, smallpox has been spread through the air over longer distances in enclosed settings such as buildings, buses, and trains. Smallpox is not known to be transmitted by insects or animals.

What is the likelihood of being exposed to smallpox?

Currently, smallpox disease is not occurring anywhere in the world. However, there is concern that smallpox virus could be reintroduced intentionally into the world as an act of terrorism.

If someone is exposed to smallpox, is it too late to get a vaccination?

Vaccination within 3 days of exposure will completely prevent or significantly modify smallpox in the vast majority of persons. Vaccination 4-7 days after exposure likely offers some protection from disease or may modify the severity of disease.

Is there any treatment for smallpox?

There is no proven treatment for smallpox, but patients can benefit from supportive therapy (for example, intravenous fluids, medicine to control fever or pain) and antibiotics for any secondary bacterial infections that may occur. Research to evaluate new antiviral agents for treating smallpox is ongoing.

Adapted from CDC. *Smallpox Questions and Answers: The Disease and the Vaccine*. March 31, 2003.

About Smallpox Vaccine

What is smallpox vaccine?

Smallpox vaccine is made from a virus called vaccinia, which is another “pox”-type virus related to the variola virus that causes smallpox. The vaccine cannot cause smallpox. Smallpox vaccine is the only way to prevent smallpox. It was successfully used to eradicate smallpox from the human population.

How long does a smallpox vaccination last?

Past experience indicates that the first dose of the vaccine offers protection from smallpox for 3-5 years, with decreasing immunity thereafter. If a person is vaccinated again later, immunity lasts longer.

Is the vaccination I had as a child still effective?

If you were vaccinated for smallpox as a child, you should not consider yourself currently protected against smallpox. Past experience indicates that the first dose of the vaccine offers protection from smallpox for 3-5 years, with decreasing immunity thereafter. If a person is vaccinated again later, immunity lasts longer.

How do I protect other people from getting infected?

After receiving the vaccination, you will receive extensive aftercare instructions for care of the vaccination site and preventing the spread of the vaccine virus to others. It is important that these instructions are followed completely and carefully.

If my family is concerned about a smallpox attack, can they go to our doctor and get the smallpox vaccine?

Routine vaccination of the American public against smallpox stopped in 1972 after the disease was eradicated in the United States. Smallpox vaccine is not currently available for members of the general public. In the event of a smallpox outbreak, however, there is enough smallpox vaccine to vaccinate everyone who would need it.

Is there enough to go around for civilians?

The U.S. government has access to enough smallpox vaccine to effectively respond to a smallpox outbreak in the United States.

Who decides how it is dispensed?

Public health professionals have a plan in place and will provide instructions in the event of an outbreak.

How long after getting the vaccine do I need to take extra precautions?

You must take extra precautions until the scab falls off, which is approximately 3 weeks.

If I get sick from the smallpox vaccine, will workmen's compensation cover my medical bills and loss of pay from work days missed?

You need to check with your employer and your employer's workmen's compensation insurance carrier. Coverage will be different for different circumstances. A federal program has been created to help pay for related costs of medical care and lost wages for individuals who meet certain criteria.

Who is considered a “close contact?”

A “close contact” means someone with whom you have regular physical contact, for example, members of your immediate family. A close contact also could be someone with whom you routinely share living quarters, share blankets or towels, or otherwise have intimate contact or share personal belongings with. Extra precautions must be taken with your close contacts after receiving the vaccine to prevent the live virus, vaccinia, from spreading to them. This is why you should not receive the vaccine if you have close contacts with the health conditions as described previously.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

For more information about smallpox or the vaccine:

- ▶ Ask your health care provider.
- ▶ Contact the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services
 - (800) 392-0272
- ▶ Call the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) public response hotline.
 - (888) 246-2675 (English)
 - (888) 246-2857 (Español)
 - (866) 874-2646 (TTY)
- ▶ Visit the CDC smallpox Web site at www.cdc.gov/smallpox

For more information about financial considerations:

- ▶ Ask your employer.
- ▶ Contact the Smallpox Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, Office of Special Programs, (888) 496-0338 or go to www.hrsa.gov/smallpoxinjury

ASK QUESTIONS

If you decide to have the vaccine, a public health and/or medical professional will be available to provide more information. Please use the area below to write down any questions that you may want to ask before deciding to have the vaccine.

[illegible]

About the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services protects and promotes quality of life and health for all Missourians by developing and implementing programs and systems that provide:

Information and education

Effective regulation and oversight

Quality services

Surveillance of diseases and health conditions



Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services
P.O. Box 570
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0570

www.dhss.mo.gov

To report a public health emergency, call
1-800-392-0272. This toll-free phone number
is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Alternate forms of this publication for persons with disabilities may be obtained by contacting the office listed above. Hearing impaired citizens telephone 1-800-735-2966.

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